

Searching the NLS Catalog

The staff at the Kentucky Talking Book Library is always willing to help you select books or to select books for you. However, if you prefer to choose your own books you can search the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) online catalog to find things you would like to read. Here are some instructions.

Find the NLS Online Catalog at: <http://nlscatalog.loc.gov/>. To search the catalog, click on the word “Text” under the NLS catalog overview.

SEARCH HINTS:

- 1) You can search by author, title, book number, or keyword. Scroll down to the bottom of the search page to see examples of proper form.
- 2) Remember that we do not have everything found in this catalog. It includes items from libraries across the country, as well as other organizations.
 - The “Location” drop-down menu will automatically be set to “NLS Only” and will find books made for the NLS program, which includes most of our collection.
 - Selecting “All” will find books from all sources. Many of these are available to Talking Book patrons via interlibrary loan, while others are not. Contact KTBL to check availability or to request books from other libraries.
- 3) All book numbers start with a 2-letter prefix and are followed by a 5-digit number. Use this number to order books from your librarian.
- 4) The prefix tells you what format the book is. Book records will also have the label [sound recording] or [Braille] in the book description.
 - RC—cassette book
 - KY—cassette Kentucky book recorded at our library
 - DKY—digital Kentucky book recorded at our library; for use with current player
 - DB—digital book; for use with current player
 - BR—Braille book
 - FD or RD—records, most no longer available.
- 5) It is best to use the drop down menu provided to limit the material type to “Sound Recording” or “Braille”.

- 6) Many DB records will have this message, “May be available only for download”. These are older books that were originally available on cassette tape but have been converted to digital format. We probably do not have these books here, but they can be downloaded from the BARD website. Contact your librarian to check availability or for information on downloading digital talking books from the NLS BARD program.
- 7) Most Braille titles and all DB titles are available for download via the NLS BARD website. Contact your librarian to register for this service.
- 8) You cannot order directly from the catalog. Call the Kentucky Talking Book Library at 1-800-372-2968 (KY toll-free only) or (502) 564-5791 with any book requests, or email your librarian. For last names beginning with:
 - A-C: Barbara.Penegor@ky.gov
 - D-I: Lauren.Abner@ky.gov
 - J-Q: Janet.Chisman@ky.gov
 - P-Z: ktbl.mail@ky.gov
- 10) For a list of the newest talking books listed in the Talking Book Topics catalog, go to <http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt/index.html>

Please contact KTBL if you have any questions or problems – the staff is always happy to help!